[English]

West Zone Food Ministers' Conference

3613. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of West Zone Food Ministers has been held at Ahmedabad recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the matter discussed and the suggestions made thereat; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Conference of Food Ministers of West Zone States was held on 14.2.1997 at Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) The prospect of higher procurement of foodgrains in the region and the preparedness for launching of the targetted PDS were discussed in the meeting. The State Governments were advised to take action as per the guidelines issued for the targetted PDS. The new scheme of PDS was generally well received by the States.

Ban on Open Sale

3614. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of corruption charges against the officials of the Food Corporation of India, private traders and mill owners, the Government have decided to immediately ban the open market wheat allotment;

(b) whether the Government have also issued directions to the Food Corporation of India to allow the States to decide the percentage of wheat to be sold through the Public Distribution System and by open sale;

(c) if so, the main points of the decision taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether reports about the position of wheat in the country have been obtained from the States in January, 1997; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir Presently, the Open Market Sale Scheme of Wheat is valid upto 31st March, 1997.

(b) and (c) In December, 96, the Government directed the Food Corporation of India to communicate the State-wise monthly ceiling of open sale wheat to States/UT's for distribution through Distnct Officers. The earlier System of selection of allottees was to continue only in those States/UT's where they were not willing to take over this Scheme.

(d) Yes Sir, from the States holding stocks for the Central Pool.

(e) The stock position of wheat in the Central Pool at the end of January, 1997 was estimated at 50.80 lakh tonnes, including 23.42 lakh tonnes and 3.78 lakh tonnes held by Punjab and Haryana State Governments respectively for Central Pool

[Translation]

Service Rule for Government Employees of Chandigarh

3615. SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding formulation of service rules for the Government employees of Chandigarh is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the extant instructions contained in MHA Notification dated 13th Jan., 1992, the Conditions of Service of persons appointed to the Central Civil Services and Posts under the administrative control of the Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh shall, subject to any other provision made by the President in this behalf, be the same as the Conditions of Service of persons appointed to corresponding Posts in Punjab Civil Services and shall be governed by the same Rules and Orders as are for the time being applicable to the latter category of persons.

[English]

Compensation to the Families of the Victims

3616. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to take up the cases of killing of the innocent bus passengers during the terrorist movement in Punjab with the intention to compensate families of the victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said issue has been referred to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for consideration; and

(d) if so, the position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government of Punjab had formulated a scheme for these victims of terrorist movement and according to which an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 1,00,000/- (previously it was Rs. 50,000/-) to the next of kin of persons killed in terrorist movement was to be paid. Widows of the deceased persons are also allowed subsistence allowance of Rs. 1,500/- per month till one member of the family is absorbed in Government service. Injured persons are paid an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5,000/- plus total reimbursement of expenditure on indoor treatment. A lumpsum grant of Rs. 50,000/- is paid in case of 100% disability. Marriage grant of Rs. 10,000/- is paid for the marriage of daughter and sister of person killed. Facility of loan at concessional rates and free education to the children of victims of terrorist movement are also extended.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Separate Corporation for Trans-Yamuna Area

3617. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate corporation for the trans-yamuna area in Delhi to provide better civil services there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Central Government at present.

Development of the Himalayan Region

3618. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to the States of the Himalayan region under various programmes for the all round development of the said region during the last three years and current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal for setting up a National Biodiversity Protection Board to look after the flora and fauna in the Himalayan region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The amount allocated to the States of the Himalayan region under various programmes of the Ministry of Environment & Forests for the development of environment and protection of forests of the region during last three years is given in the statement attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Broad Objectives	States covered	Financial assistance provided			
				93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Project Tiger	To ensure viable population of Tigers	(i) Arunachal Pradesh	32.01	34.54	35.87	26.00
			(ii) Assam	36.38	42.35	55.65	37.43
			(iii) Mizoram	—	—	13.45	8.36
			(iv) Uttar Pradesh	91.71	90.55	96.64	106.21
			(v) West Bengal	84.31	87.54	90.16	104.68